

## Why is playing important?

Play is crucial for developing children's communication skills. Through play children learn about sharing and taking turns, they are able to try out new vocabulary and practice using their imagination through storytelling. Play also allows children to practice making choices in a safe environment.

### Library! at Main

715 S. Capitol Blvd | Boise, ID 83702 | (208) 972-8200  
Mon-Thurs 10-9, Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

### Library! at Bown Crossing

2153 East Riverwalk Dr. | Boise, ID 83706 | (208) 972-8360

Mon-Thurs 10-9, Fri 10-6, Sat 12-5, Sun 1-5

### Library! at Cole and Ustick

7557 W Ustick Rd. | Boise, ID 83704 | (208) 972-8300  
Mon-Thurs 10-9, Fri 10-6, Sat 12-5, Sun 1-5

### Library! at Collister

4724 W. State St. | Boise, ID 83703 | (208) 972-8320  
Mon-Thurs 10-9, Fri 10-6, Sat 12-5, Sun 1-5

### Library! at Hillcrest

5246 W. Overland Rd. | Boise, ID 83705 | (208) 972-8324  
Mon-Thurs 10-9, Fri 10-6, Sat 12-5, Sun 1-5



Boise Public  
Library



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# Kindergarten Lions

Library!



## Playing Activities

## Color the lion's dreams.

-  Play dress up with your child. Have them tell you a story about who they are and what they do.
-  Play Flashlight Scavenger Hunt. Hide items around your house (or room) and turn off the lights. Let your child find the items using a flashlight.
-  Read a book together with your child. When you're finished, re-imagine the book as a play and act it out for your other family members. Maybe even change up the ending!
-  Visit the Main Library or Collister Branch and play with the Play Literacy Station. We have new themes each month such as doctor, ice cream station, and grocery store.
-  Build something with blocks with your child. Don't have blocks? Use cardboard boxes or books!



# Looking for a good book to read?

## Picture Books About Playing

- *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis
- *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- *Can You Make a Scary Face* by Jan Thomas
- *Beautiful Oops!* by Barney Saltzberg
- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jacks Keats
- *Happy Dreamers* by Peter Reynolds
- *Dreaming Up: a Celebration of Building* by Christy Hale
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maruice Sendak
- *Press Here* by Hervé Tullet
- *King Jack and the Dragons* by Peter Bently

## Tumblebooks

- eBooks for children to read, listen, and watch animated talking picture books.
- Read-along feature to help strengthen reading skills.
- Games and interactive activities to help strengthen comprehension skills.



Have your child tell you a story while you make shadow puppets together.



Set up a pretend restaurant at your house. Have your child play chef, waiter, or customer. Use kitchen tools, writing materials, and dress up costumes as needed. Switch roles!



Play the I Spy Game using the alphabet as the lead. Take turns finding items starting with the same letter, such as 'D' until you run out of things to find.



Play Patty-Cake with your child. Can you make up different words to the song?



Write down different animal names on scraps of paper and put them in a cup. Pretend to be the animals as you both take turns drawing out different pieces of paper.



Find some old, worn out socks and recycle them into sock puppets together. Let your child perform a puppet show for you.



Play Store Clerk with your child. Have your child collect items from around their room or house to "sell" to you, or exchange for something else. Let your child lead you around the store, asking "How much would this cost?"



Let your child use their fingers to "hike" up your arms and legs, pretending they are on an adventure. Ask them what they see on the mountain, are there any bears or rivers?



Collect rocks outside. Decorate them or paint them to make a game. Example: Tic-tac-toe.



Make some playdough or use some you have. Help your child make sculptures and then tell you about them.



When the weather is warmer, you and your child can play outside. Set out several bowls full of water, various cups, and measuring spoons. Play however you want.



Have a staring or silly face contest with your child. Whoever laughs first loses!



Playing board games can be fun but it can be more fun when you invent your own game. You can start from scratch or you can use an old game and make up new rules. Ask your child to create their own rules to the new game. Don't forget to name it!



Build a fort using blankets and towels. Ask your child about the fort. Is it on another planet? Is it a castle? What supplies do you need inside?



Go on a "sound hunt." Walk around and listen for sounds. Have your child describe the sound while you guess what it is.